**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1.      A mixer, comprising a single processor to couple to two sub-conference nodes, to select at least a portion of information received from the two sub-conference nodes, and to transmit that selected portion of information
5      to the two sub-conference nodes.

2.      The mixer of claim 1, wherein the portion of information transmitted to the first sub-conference and the portion of information transmitted to the second sub-conference are selected sequentially by the processor.

10      3.      The mixer of claim 1, wherein the portion of information transmitted to the first sub-conference is selected by the processor based on an attribute received from the first sub-conference.

4.      The mixer of claim 3, wherein the portion of information transmitted to the first sub-conference is modified by the processor and the
15      portion of information transmitted to the second sub-conference is unmodified based on a change in the attribute received from the first sub-conference.

5.      The mixer of claim 1, wherein the portion of information transmitted to the first sub-conference is selected by the processor based on audio activity sensed at the first and second sub-conferences.

20      6.      The mixer of claim 1, wherein a third sub-conference node is coupled to the single processor during a conference and the single processor selects at least a portion of information received from the three sub-conference nodes, and transmits that selected portion of information to the three sub-conference nodes.

25      7.      A mixer, comprising:
        an input to.couple to at least two sub-conference nodes;
        an output to couple to the at least two sub-conference nodes;
        a storage device to contain attributes of each sub-conference node;

and

a single processor coupled to the input, the output, and the storage device to format information incident at the input, and output at least a portion of that information at the output in accordance with the attributes.

5    8.    The mixer of claim 7, further comprising a voice activity detector coupled to the sub-conference nodes and the input to provide conference information from at least one of the sub-conference nodes to the mixer if audio activity is detected at the at least one sub-conference node.

9.    The mixer of claim 8, wherein conference information is not 10  provided at the output for at least one of the sub-conference nodes when audio activity is not detected by the voice activity detector from that sub-conference node.

10.    The mixer of claim 7, wherein the attributes are stored in a party information table.

15   11.    The mixer of claim 7, wherein the storage device is random access memory.

12.    The mixer of claim 7, wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

13.    The mixer of claim 7, further comprising a second processor 20  communicating with the storage device to vary attributes contained in the storage device.

14.    A stream mixing method, comprising mixing data streams for at least a first sub-conference and a second sub-conference participating in a conference in a single mixer.

25   15.    The stream mixing method of claim 14, further comprising changing the number of data streams mixed by the mixer while the conference is in progress.

16.    The stream mixing method of claim 14, wherein changing the number of data streams includes adding a data stream for an additional sub-conference.

17.    The stream mixing method of claim 14, further comprising modifying an attribute of the first sub-conference without modifying an attribute of the second sub-conference while the conference is in progress.

18.    The stream mixing method of claim 17, wherein modifying an attribute of the first sub-conference includes modifying the audio volume at the first sub-conference without modifying the audio volume of the second sub-conference, while the conference is in progress.

19.    The stream mixing method of claim 14, wherein the data stream for the first sub-conference and the data stream for the second sub-conference are processed sequentially by the mixer.

20.    The stream mixing method of claim 14, wherein information as to how the streams for the first and second sub-conferences are to be mixed is stored in a data storage device.

21.    The stream mixing method of claim 20, wherein the data storage device is random access memory.

22.    The stream mixing method of claim 20, wherein the information as to how streams are to be mixed is modified during the conference.

23.    An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a single processor, cause the processor to mix data streams for at least a first sub-conference and a second sub-conference participating in a conference.

24.    The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium includes instructions which, when executed by the single processor, cause the single processor to mix the data streams for the first sub-conference and the second conference sequentially.

25. The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium includes instructions which, when executed by the single processor, cause the single processor to select information to be included in the data streams based on receipt of audio information from the first sub-
5    conference and the second sub-conference as indicated by a voice activity detector at an input to be coupled to the processor.

26. The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium includes instructions which, when executed by the single processor, cause the single processor to format information to be included in
10    the data streams based on attributes to be retrieved by the processor from a storage device to be coupled to the processor.